

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAR ES 02923 210935Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

/097 W

-----013304 211303Z /42

R 210853Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5668

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAR ES SALAAM 2923

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, RH, TZ, UK, US

SUBJECT: TANZANIAN PRESS, MUGABE COMMENT ON SMITH'S ELECTION  
PLANS

1. TANZANIA PRESS HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO SMITH'S PLAN TO HOLD ELECTIONS AT END OF AUGUST. NO TANGOV OFFICIAL HAS COMMENTED PUBLICLY ON THIS DEVELOPMENT BUT GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY NEWS OF JULY 21 DISCUSSED ELECTIONS IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL. ELECTION PLAN WAS DISMISSED AS LATEST OF SMITH'S "TRICKS" TO LEND LEGITIMACY TO HIS REGIME AND TO DIVERT WORLD ATTENTION FROM ARMED STRUGGLE IN RHODESIA. EDITORIAL URGES FIGHTING FORCES TO PREPARE TO DEAL THE FINAL BLOW.

2. ZANU LEADER ROBERT MUGABE, STILL IN DAR ES SALAAM AFTER PATRIOTIC FRONT CO-ORDINATION TALKS LAST WEEKEND, CALLED SMITH'S  
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PAGE 02 DAR ES 02923 210935Z

ELECTIONS "IRRELEVANT" AT A JULY 19 PRESS CONFERENCE. THE MILITARY STRUGGLE WOULD BE CONTINUED. HE REPORTEDLY SAID SMITH'S ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATED BRITAIN WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO PUT PRESSURE ON SMITH TO GIVE UP. "AFTER ALL IS IT NOT BRITISH AND AMERICAN WEAPONS WHICH ARE FILLING THE ARSENALS OF SMITH AND THEIR MAN-POWER AND TRADE RELATIONS THAT KEEP HIS ECONOMY GOING" MUGABE IS REPORTED TO HAVE ASKED.

3. TANZANIAN PRESS HAS ALSO GIVEN ATTENTION TO CRITICISM OF RHODESIAN ELECTIONS BY AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG AND REVEREND NDABANINGI SITHOLE.

4. COMMENT: "IRRELEVANT" SEEMS TO BE THE PRINCIPAL REACTION SO FAR HERE TO SMITH'S ELECTION PLANS. TANGOV APPEARS TO REGARD SITUATION AS BUSINESS AS USUAL AND WE WOULD EXPECT IT TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT MILITARY EFFORT WHILE ENDORSING UK-US EFFORT TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTITED SETTLEMENT. TANZANIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF SMITH'S ELECTION PLANS DEPICTS HIM AS BEING OBLIGED TO SEEK NEW DEVICES BECAUSE OF FIRMNESS OF UK-US POSITION. IN TANGOV VIEW THIS SHOULD ADD LUSTER TO UK-US EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT.  
SPAIN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PDEV, RH, TZ, UK, US, (MUGABE, ROBERT), (SMITH, IAN)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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